

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 10, and 15–18 are pending in the Application. Upon entrance of this Supplemental Amendment, Claims 1, 7, 10, and 15–22 will be pending in the Application, of which, Claims 1 and 7 are independent. Applicants are canceling Claims 3 and 5; amending Claims 1, 7, 10, and 15–18; and adding Claims 19–22 (details of which are presented below).

Although previously provided to the Office, Applicants submit the below Statement of Substance of Interview for convenience.

#### **Statement of Substance of Interview**

An Examiner's Interview was conducted via conference call on September 21, 2010 with Examiner Andrew Lee, Mr. Yang Rong of Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd., and Applicants' Attorneys James M. Smith and Alexis A. Liistro, in attendance. Applicants and Applicants Attorneys thank Examiner Lee for helpful suggestions offered during the Examiner's Interview. The substance of the interview concerned a Non-Final Office Action, mailed from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on June 8, 2010 and a Reply filed, in response to the Action, on September 7, 2010. Specifically, attendees discussed the current state of routing in light of the three cited references. Attendees broadly discussed the current state of Claims 1, 3, 5, and 7, but did not reach an agreement. The Examiner noted a review of the claims in view of the specification would be helpful and indicated a willingness to consider a proposed amendment to the claims in order to further prosecution. In particular, the Examiner discussed Applicants' Figs. 6 and 8, along with the corresponding description in the Specification, as being primarily important for consideration in amending the Claims. Applicants thank Examiner Lee for his direction towards these portions of the Specification and Applicants have included the substance thereof into the proposed amendments and remarks.

#### **Supplemental Amendments**

As of the non-final Office Action mailed June 8, 2010, Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 10, and 15–18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over a combination of Wong *et al.*, U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0037278 B1 (hereinafter "Wong"), in view of Gifford, U.S. Patent No. 6,052,718 (hereinafter "Gifford"), and further in view of Narvaez-Guarnieri *et al.*, U.S. Patent

No.: 6,098,107 (hereinafter “Narvaez”). Applicants respectfully submit that, in view of the current amendments, Applicants claims are novel and non-obvious over the combination of Wong, Gifford, and Narvaez for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants are herein cancelling independent Claim 3, and amending independent Claim 1 to incorporate elements of Claim 3. Similarly, Applicants are herein cancelling independent Claim 5, and amending independent Claim 7 to incorporate elements of Claim 5. Claims 10 and 15–18 are being amended for dependency. In addition, Applicants are adding new Claims 19–22 as clarifying claims, which Applicants believe do not add new subject matter.

Support for these claim amendments and new claims can be found throughout Applicants’ Specification as originally filed, for example, at least at page 4, lines 8–14; page 6, lines 11–12; page 6, line 33 through page 7, line 2; page 7, lines 21–34; page 8, lines 6–24; page 9, lines 3–8 and 19–25; and Figures 5B–8.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amended and new claims, presented in the Claim Listing above, further clarify embodiments of the invention and further distinguish over the cited art as noted below.

First, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to explicitly recite “*a routing table configured to use a destination IP address...to route the IP data packet by determining a composite output trunk.*” Applicants respectfully submit the explicit recitation of “*a routing table...[for]...determining a composite output trunk,*” as evidenced in Applicants’ Figure 8, element 306, further clarifies the patentably distinguishing features of the present invention over cited art Wong.

In addition, Applicants submit that the addition of the “*routing table*” in Claim 1 further clarifies Applicants’ recited output port selector (*i.e.*, “*an output port selector configured to use the determined composite output trunk...to select an individual output port of the composite output trunk,*”) as also recited in currently amended Claim 1 (emphasis added). As described in Applicants’ Specification, page 8, lines 11–24 and depicted in Figure 8, elements 308 and 309, the output port selector is a separate mechanism from the routing table; the output port selector being described for “*selecting the individual output port of the composite output trunk* (emphasis added)” (whereas only the composite output trunk is determined by the routing table, *e.g.*, Fig. 8, elements 305 and 306).

Furthermore, and in addition to the routing table and the output port selector described above, Applicants are currently amending Claim 1 to explicitly recite a second table, (*i.e.*, “a forwarding table having plural entries to each individual output port,” where the “forwarding table” is a separate table from the “routing table.” As described in Applicants’ Specification as originally filed, for example, at least on page 9, lines 19–25 and Fig. 8, element 308.

In other words, Applicants’ Claim 1, as currently amended, explicitly recites, “a routing table,” “an output port selector,” and “a forwarding table,” each of which is presents a distinct element but may have associated functionality and/or interoperability (as recited in the claims). Applicants respectfully submit that at least these elements as presented in the amended claims (*i.e.*, the “routing table,” the “output port selector,” and the “forwarding table”) are wholly absent from Wong. The features of currently amended Claim 1 are similarly absent from Gifford and Narvaez.

Second, Applicants note Gifford has only been cited for disclosing “IP data packets.”

Last, the Office cited Narvaez as being said to disclose “dynamically weighting a number of entries to each route to the common destination,” as stated on page 4 of the most recent Office Action (mailed June 8, 2010). However, Applicants respectfully submit that Narvaez discloses dynamic adjustment of a shortest path tree structure and uses the weight to compute shortest routes from the router through the network. *See* Narvaez, Abstract. More notably, Narvaez discloses “determining a weight change of an edge.” *See, e.g.*, Narvaez, col. 5, line 66 to col. 6, line 27 (emphasis added). As such, Narvaez is merely maintaining and updating a “data structure consisting of a set of edges” that interconnects nodes in the network, that data structure being used to program the routing table. Therefore, Narvaez’s updating of an edge weight is not “dynamically balancing load by weighting a number of entries to each individual output port, each entry in the forwarding table being dynamically rewritable to a different individual output port,” as recited in Claim 1 as currently amended (emphasis added).

Applicants are currently amending independent Claim 7, in the Claim Listing above, to recite similar elements as Claim 1, described above.

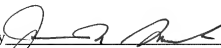
In light of the current amendments and above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that, upon entrance of this Supplemental Amendment, the claims are novel and non-obvious over the combination of Wong, Gifford, and Narvaez.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims, namely Claims 1, 7, 10, and 15-22, are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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